

NETWORK OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES
FESTIVAL OF FAITHS: SHARING OUR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS
WORKSHOPS TO BE PRESENTED 3:30 - 7:30 pm JUNE 5, 2005
St Amelia Roman Catholic Church, 2999 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda, NY

Religious Tradition: Baha'i

Title: Baha'i Faith: Religion Renewed To Unite The Human Race

Presenter: Drs. Emilia Phillips and Brydon Grant.

Description:

The Baha'i Faith is an independent religion founded by Baha'u'llah who Baha'is believe is the promise of all ages foretold by all the Prophets of the past. Its purpose is to unite humankind. Baha'is consider all religions are one and to be of the same spiritual foundation and the purpose of religion is to unite the humankind. This workshop will outline its history of the Faith, its basic beliefs and describe its religious practices.

Religious Tradition: Baptists and the Free Church Tradition

Title: Faith and Freedom in the Baptist Tradition

Presenters: James Anderson and Rev. Lloyd Noyes

Description:

We will cover the following topics. The "Free Church" Tradition and Baptist polity. The History of the Baptist Movement. Baptist distinctives. Personalities of the Baptist tradition. Two specific branches of baptists: National Baptist Convention and American Baptist Churches in the USA. Questions and discussion.

Religious Tradition: Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints (Mormon)

Title: Strengthening Families by the Church of Jesus Christ

Presenters: Stephen J. Free, Stake President & Susan Dayton, Stake Relief Society President

Description:

The basic doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be presented. Our beliefs about the importance of family organization and the role of parents will be highlighted. The Church's Family Home Evening program, which is designed to help strengthen families, will be presented. The Church's humanitarian Aid and welfare programs to help the poor will be discussed.

Religious Tradition: The Episcopal Church

Title: Meet the Episcopal Church

Presenters: Rev. Allen Farabee and Paul Nevergold

Description:

Three key factors distinguish the Episcopal Church: We are organized about bishops and dioceses, we claim apostolic succession and we base our worship and instruction on the Book of Common Prayer. Our theology is wrapped around scripture, tradition and reason.

Religious Tradition: Hinduism

Title: Hinduism- The oldest, continually practiced religion

Presenters: Dr Dilip Sinha and Dr Vijay Chakravarthy

Description:

The workshop will discuss the following:

1. Basic principles of Hinduism
2. Why it is a misunderstood religion
3. Common rituals and practices.

Religious Tradition: Islam

Title: Religion of Islam

Presenters: Dr. Othman Shibly, Imam Fajri Ansari

Description:

Basic overview of the origin and tenants of Islam. Islam as it relates to society today.

Will allow time, as permitted, for questions and answers.

Religious Tradition: Judaism

Title: A Taste of Judaism

Presenter: Rabbi Charles Shalman

Description:

If your knowledge of Judaism comes from the Bible, come by for a quick overview of how we have changed and evolved over the last 2000 years. Topics include history, rituals, and the contemporary movements.

Religious Tradition: The Mennonite Church

Title: The Mennonite Church

Presenters: Joe and Elaine Haines

Description:

A friendly conversation about who Mennonites are as contemporary Anabaptists, their presence in WNY, history of the radical wing of the Reformation and responding to questions.

Religious Tradition: Pentecostalism

Title: Understanding Pentecostalism

Presenter: Rev. Jeff Carter

Description:

This workshop will present some of the history of the Pentecostal movement in America, along with some scriptural rationale for Pentecostal beliefs.

Religious Tradition: Religious Society of Friends

Title: The Religious Society of Friends-Quakers

Presenter: Sue Tannehill

Description:

Who are the Quakers? What do they believe? Do they still wear those funny hats? Come and learn about this sect of Christianity-a blend of mysticism and practical action to bring about the Peaceable Kingdom here on earth.

Religious Tradition: Protestant Christianity

Title: The Protestant Reformation: its roots and results

Presenter: Rev. Pierre Albrecht-Carrie

Description:

Will identify the major reasons for the Protestant Reformation, its primary leaders and branches; their differences and how the various parts of the Reformation evolved into the present day denominations.

Religious Tradition: Roman Catholic Christianity

Title: What is Christian Catholicism?

Presenters: Christine Kesterson

Description:

This workshop takes a look at the values of Christian Catholicism from its origin to the present condition. It highlights the Roman tradition, and emphasizes the commonality and distinctions between Catholic and Protestant Christians. Its purpose is to emphasize the values of diversity and unity in the modern religious and particularly Christian context, while demonstrating the traditions distinctly Roman Catholic.

Religious Tradition: Sikhism

Title: Sikh History and internationalization of Sikh religion

Presenters: Dr. Surjit Singh and Dr. Satpal Singh

Description:

The workshop on Sikhism will present the emergence and evolution of Sikhism under the guidance and inspiration of Ten Human Gurus from mid fifteenth to sixteenth century, and how the religion tried to bridge the gap between various belief systems by showing that the essential truth was the same, and each religion tries its best to make better human beings. Apparent difference results from the different cultural traditions where the faith arose. The presentation will trace Sikh history till the defeat of the Sikhs by the British and then discuss the modern Sikh History and internationalization of Sikh religion because of the sizable Sikh populations in Europe and the West and how it has affected the current practices and possible future of the Sikh faith. It will be a power point presentation with some basic Sikh artifacts on display.

Religious Tradition: Unitarian Universalism

Title: Unitarian Universalism

Presenter: Rev. Frances Manly

Description:

This is the story of a religious movement that was born among the free churches of the Protestant Reformation and has matured into an inclusive, non-creedal tradition centered on a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Today, our commitment to the spirit of love and to our shared values sustains us and inspires us to work toward freedom, peace, and justice as we address the challenging issues of our time.

Religious Tradition: United Methodist Church

Title: The United Methodists

Presenters: Rev. Merle Showers

Description:

This workshop will be a presentation of the history of the United Methodist Church and the more unique aspects of this particular Protestant denomination. It will highlight a number of the earliest leaders and their contribution and then the transition when the church came to the United States. It will emphasize the theology and social teaching of the denomination and attempt to locate this denomination in the midst, or in relation to, the other mainline denominations.

Religious Traditions: Unity Church of Practical Christianity

Title: Practical Christianity--What's That?

Presenters: Rev. Mary Masters and church board members.

Description:

Unity is an attempt to return to First Century (original) Christianity, in both its simplicity and power. Our founders wrote: "Unity is a link in the great educational movement inaugurated by Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to help humankind to use and prove the eternal Truth taught by the Master." Founded in 1889, Unity is a way of life, study and prayer. Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, Unity is a worldwide movement that offers a positive, practical approach to Christianity, helping people find deeper spiritual meanings in their lives.

Join us for a discussion of our history teachings, and an opportunity to experience our approach to prayer and meditation.

EACH WORKSHOP WILL BE PRESENTED TWICE WITH A RECEPTION AND A SAMPLING OF FOODS BETWEEN THE SESSIONS.